

Connect

MAY | JUNE 2018



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Gala Helps Youth Go 'Up, Up and Away!'

Volunteer organization strives to make a difference in the lives of children in foster care

The success and well-being of Alexandria's children is an integral part of DCHS' mission--and it is the utmost priority for the Fund for Alexandria's Child, an organization coordinated through DCHS and made up of volunteers from all walks of life who want to make a difference in the lives children in foster care.

To that end, the Fund hosted its 15th Annual Fostering the Future Gala at the Sheraton Suites in Old Town Alexandria on June 8. *Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Suess inspired the theme for the evening, highlighting the endless possibilities for youth in Alexandria.

Through generous volunteers and sponsors, this year's Gala raised more than \$55,000, benefitting children in foster care or at-risk of abuse and neglect. Through The Fund's community support, children are able to receive enrichment at a critical time in their development.

The event was filled with fun and festivities as the community came together to imagine an "oh, so bright future for our youth." The evening

Continued on page 4





Director's Corner



DCHS Director Kate Garvey

Priority-based Budgeting: Why Are We in Business?

The city is embarking on a Priority-based Budgeting process this summer through the fall. The purpose of the effort is to start the FY2020 budget process with a prioritized list of services. The key steps in the process include the development of a service inventory (which was already completed by each of the departments, but some refining may be done), a costing out of services, definition of results, scoring of services, peer review and then the actual prioritization.

The City is working with ResourceX, a company that

has worked with jurisdictions across the country to focus on priority-based budgeting. A training was recently held to help each department to be aware of the approach and to have an opportunity to ask questions. This process has assisted communities to become more clear in their budgeting and to assure that they are investing in the most important things.

The next step in the process is the "Costing of Programs." This includes looking at the personnel and non-personnel line items that are included in programs. It helps us to see what it actually costs to carry out each program.

Next the work is to carry out result setting. ResourceX

says this is where we ask ourselves why we are in business.

To answer this question, it is necessary to identify the priorities of the City and then align the projects with the results. The City has expressed its priorities through its strategic plan. The prioritization process is tied to the impact that each service has on the key outcomes of the strategic plan.

The items in the City's strategic plan range from multimodal transportation to healthy residents to environmental sustainability, to thriving children and youth. While some of our services do not seem to be directly impacting all of the strategic plan goals, our work does impact many sectors of our community. This process will enable us to show the significant impact we have on the city and its residents. It will also help us to understand

what it takes to carry out the services that we provide.

We will have the opportunity to score our programs through reviewing the basic program attributes and results. Each community can determine which attributes should be included. They may include mandated services, reliance on the City for the service, service demand, cost recovery and portion of the community served. The chosen items can be weighted depending on the

areas that are most critical for the City. The results scoring is driven by the degree to which a program has an influence in the achievement of the goals.

The next step is a peer review, for individuals who are objective and do not have a stake in the review of the service. They will review the scoring of the services and provide feedback on the accuracy and consistency of those scores.

After these steps are taken we will have all of the pro-

grams in prioritized listing that is split into four quartiles. This list will provide information to us as we are making decisions. It does not mean that everything that is in the fourth quartile will be eliminated or reduced or that everything in the first quartile will never be reduced. It will help us to understand the factors that impact our services and our outcomes. As always, please look out for opportunities to participate in these efforts. 🌱

... and the Consolidated Site

DCHS is on track to meet its June 2019 goal for a new consolidated site to house the majority of its services along with programs from the Health Department and Neighborhood Health.

Since the merger of the City's social and behavioral health services into one department in 2010, one location has been the most frequently identified factor by staff at all levels across DCHS when it comes to improving employee communication and collaboration and increasing client access to services.

The DCHS Leadership Team continues to work with the

Department of General Services to process space needs. The team resubmitted a new headcount of full time employees in May.

"General Services asked for a recount from the three entities to ensure an accurate counting of the space requirements needed and to measure the results against the capacity of the three building sites that replied to the RFP," says Center for Operations Director Sharon Vaughan-Roach.

Read former updates and keep up with news and information about the consolidated site at alexnet.alexandriava.gov/DCHS—and keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to be involved and contribute your input! 🌱



included music, an open bar, hor'd'oeuvres, dancing, a photo booth, caricature artists, raffles and amazing live and silent auctions.

Alexandria Foster Parents of the Year Diana and Andrew Intagliata were recognized by Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg.

The event was one of many that the Fund's volunteers arrange to ensure that this vulnerable population of children in crisis enjoy enriching opportunities in life, such as music lessons, sports, field trips, birthday gifts, homecoming, yearbooks, summer camp and outings with family.

It is through community contributions that the Fund can to continue to provide these children with life-changing

experiences. The programs and activities The Fund furnishes to Alexandria's most at risk children has the potential to spring board their futures into amazing directions.

The Fund offers many ways for people to support these life-changing efforts, including:

► **Year-Round Giving Opportunities.** The Fund depends heavily on the generosity of local businesses, faith groups and individuals who donate money, goods and services in support of their fundraising events or year-round as needs arise. Donations are tax-deductible. Also consider volunteering, becoming an event sponsor or making a financial contribution.

► **Honorary or Memorial Donations.** The Fund accepts

contributions in honor or in memory of a loved one who cared about the well-being of our most vulnerable children. Donate by sending a check to the Fund for Alexandria's Child, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22302.

► **Donation of Stocks.** Donors may also choose to contribute Stock in lieu of a cash donation. The benefit to the donor is the savings of capital gains tax and also the receipt of a full charitable deduction for the value of the stock at the time of the gift.

► Call 703.746.5663 to find out more about supporting the Fund. For more information about the Fund, visit alexandriava.gov/DCHS.
~by Joseph Davis

The Fund extends a special thank you to the major sponsors of the Gala: The Goodhart Group; Hudson Studio; Catherine Joyce of Morgan Stanley; Bombay Curry Company; R & B Heating and Air Conditioning; Landmark Honda; Amy and Blaine Jackson; Stone Aesthetic Dentistry; The Alexandria Euchre Club; Alpha-Graphics; Pam & Frida Team at Sotheby's International Realty; Suzanne Kratzok and Rick Howard; Thar and John Heil; Steve and Marie Min-ton; McEneaney Associates; Monument Title Company; Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota; Transitions; and Triple Craft.

More about..

EVENTS SUPPORTING FOSTER CARE

On Sunday, May 6, The Fund for Alexandria's Child and the Washington Nationals teamed up to host a day at the ballpark in honor of Foster Care Month. Alexandria resource families enjoyed a game of baseball and created memories that they will remember for a lifetime. The event was one of many the Fund hosts throughout the year to support resource families and make a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

For more information on becoming a resource parent or family, visit alexandriava.gov/Adoption.



Homelessness in the City

Annual PIT Count Reveals Increase in Homelessness

The total number of persons identified as experiencing homelessness during the 2018 annual Point in Time (PIT) Count in Alexandria increased by 15 people from 2017, a seven percent increase overall.

Every year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to conduct the one-night "snapshot" of people living in emergency shelters or transitional housing as well as those living unsheltered. The count helps convey the scope of homelessness, identify and assess unmet needs and gaps in services, inform funding

and other planning decisions and evaluate progress made in preventing and ending homelessness.

The 2018 PIT Count in Alexandria revealed 226 persons experiencing homelessness—including 29 households with adults and children (31 adults and 53 children) and 142 singles (99 men, 42 women and 1 transgender), which included 15 unsheltered and 57 people who are chronically homeless.

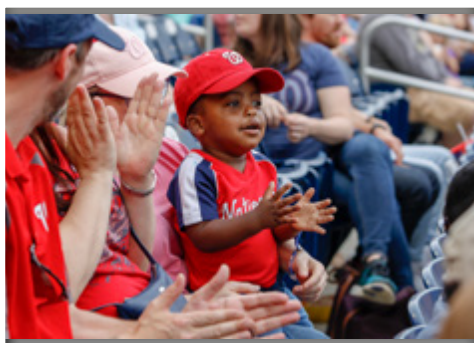
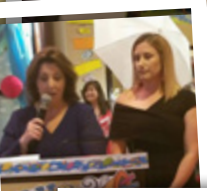
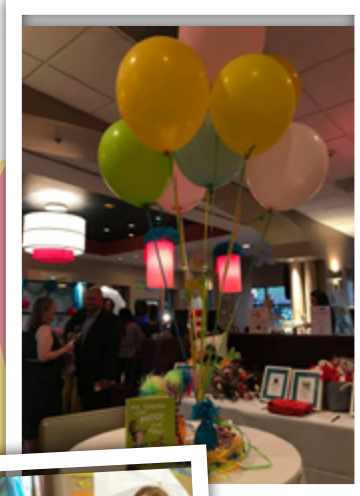
The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in the

City of Alexandria, a public-private collaborative that serves as the local Continuum of Care, conducted the City's 2018 PIT Count on January 24. A Continuum of Care led team comprised of local homeless service providers, DCHS staff and volunteers manually counted and surveyed persons who were unsheltered (i.e., who slept outdoors or in places not meant for habitation) in teams.

The City was split into five sections and each team canvassed their area in the early morning hours after the night of the count. DCHS and non-

profit homeless services staff provided data and client-level surveys for persons assisted in residential homeless services programs on the night of the count.

Read more about this year's annual PIT Count in Alexandria in the January/February 2018 issue of *Connect*. For a more in-depth look at the annual count and homelessness in Alexandria, read "The People Behind the Numbers" in the January/February 2017 issue. For a regional perspective, read a report by the [Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments](http://WashingtonMetropolitanCouncilofGovernments.org) on their website.



Are You Signed up for City eNews?

Service provides staff and residents with up-to-date news and information

The City of Alexandria eNews service allows users to receive e-mails or text messages about the latest information regarding City services and emergency alerts.

The service currently provides updates on more than 100 topics, ranging from vital emergency alerts, news releases and department newsletters

to public meeting dockets and payment deadline reminders.

News and information about DCHS services and programs are also available on eNews. Subscribing to the categories can help keep you and the clients informed about key issues and services both within the department as well as services or programs you or the clients

may utilize outside of the department.

There is no cost to sign up for eNews, although your wireless provider may charge you to receive e-mail or text messages on your mobile device. Messages can be sent as email, text or voice messages.

To sign up for an eNews subscription, visit enews.alexandriava.gov.

Subscribers can select the categories of news items they wish to receive.

If you already subscribe, now is a good time to update your subscriptions so that you will receive all of the pertinent information that eNews has to offer. Don't miss out on important news and emergency alerts—sign up or login today! 🌱

GENERAL INFORMATION

Alexandria City Council
Alexandria Library News
Animal Watch
Animal Welfare League News
Boards and Commissions Vacancies
Civic Engagement - "What's Next, Alexandria?"
Economic Development Updates
Election Information and Sample Ballots
FYI Alexandria
General City News Releases
GIS News
Job Opportunities
New Website Features
Notices of City Government Meetings
Old Town Farmers' Market News

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ACPS Emergency Announcements

DASH BUS (ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT CO.)

DASH News
DASH Service Alerts

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Aging News
Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy News
Behavioral Health and Human Services News
Food Safety News for Businesses
Health Department News
Pool & Spa Safety for Businesses
Women's Initiatives
Youth Master Plan Process
Youth Topics

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria Archaeology
Gadbsy's Tavern Museum "Tavern E-Times"
Historic Alexandria News Releases

HOUSING

Affordable Housing

PAYMENT DEADLINE REMINDERS

Business License Tax
Business Personal Property Tax
Dog and Cat Licenses
Federal Income Tax
Personal Property Tax
Real Estate Tax
Residential Parking Permits
Virginia Income Tax

PUBLIC SAFETY

Code Administration Updates
Construction/Permitting Requirements
Crime Prevention Tips
Emergency Management Tips & News
Fire and Life Safety Tips & News
Permit Center News & Updates
Police News Releases
Police Recruitment Information
Severe Weather Alerts
Smoke Detector Battery Reminders

PLANNING AND ZONING

Administrative Requests for SUPs
All Community Meetings
All General Information
Arlandria
Beauregard Corridor Plan
Boards of Architectural Review
Board of Zoning Appeals
Braddock Road Metro Area
Carlyle / Eisenhower East
Eisenhower West Planning Study
Historic Districts and Historic Preservation
Hunting Creek
Infill Development
King Street
Landmark / Van Dorn Updates
Long Range Educational Facilities Plan
Mt. Vernon Avenue Updates
Open Space Planning
Planning Commission
Potomac Yard Updates
Route 1 Planning
Transportation and Land Use Planning
Waterfront Planning

RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Arts News
Cancellations and Field Closures
Recreation General News

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

All T&ES General Information
Environmental News
GO Alex (Local Motion)
Motorcoach Task Force
Potomac Yard Metro Station Updates
Proposed Dominion Virginia Power 230KV Underground Transmission Line
Resource Recovery (Recycling & Solid Waste) Updates
Stormwater Management and Funding
Traffic and Parking Board
Transportation and Land Use Planning
Transportation Commission
West End Transitway

DCHS Star Awards

APRIL 2018

SUPER STAR NOMINEES

Group: Kristy Theodore, Lydia Guirgus, Ashley Blowe, Monica Huerta, Lorena Escalante and Katie Jameson

STAR AWARD NOMINEES

Carmen Andres
Jennifer Cohen-Cordero
Joseph Davis
Negar Ehsani
Veronica Soler
Yoshabel Velazquez

MAY 2018

SUPER STAR NOMINEES

None

STAR AWARD NOMINEES

Sorin Cetina
Denise Jamison
Akiola Roberts

Star Award Nomination Form:
[survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/
DCHS-Star-Award-Nomination-Form](http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/DCHS-Star-Award-Nomination-Form)

Super Star Nomination Form:
[survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/
DCHS-Superstar-Award-Nomination-Form](http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/DCHS-Superstar-Award-Nomination-Form)

Fair Showcases Services to LGBTQ

Local organizations participate in City's first ever LGBTQ Pride Fair

On June 4, nearly 100 people attended a community fair at Beatley Central Library that showcased services to LGBTQ people in Alexandria. Hosted by the Alexandria LG-BTQ Task Force, the event was the first ever LGBTQ Pride fair in Alexandria.

The organizations represented ranged from City of Alexandria services (including services through DCHS, Police, Office of Human Rights, Victim Witness Assistance Program, Health Department and Alexandria City Public Schools) to the faith community and local LGBTQ-specific services like Safe Space NOVA, PFLAG Alexandria, Equality Virginia, NOVA Salud, NOVA Pride and AGLA. Many of the representatives from local organizations commented on the fair's success and said they were ready to participate again next year.

LGBTQ people have often



experienced mistreatment and discrimination from service providers. Sometimes services are outright denied to LGBTQ community members. Providers at this fair were glad to let people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer know that local services

are inclusive and welcoming to people of any sexual orientation and gender identity.

If you are interested in joining the Alexandria LGBTQ Task Force, please email debra.evans@alexandriava.gov or erikaock@gmail.com.

~ by Erika Callaway Kleiner

More about..

EVENTS SUPPORTING LGBTQ POPULATIONS

The Alexandria LGBTQ Task force, Sexual Assault Center and Domestic Violence Program participated in the DC Pride Fair on June 10 with Doorways for Women and Families in Arlington.



DCHS Highlights



CPS VISITS PLAYGROUPS

As part of their activities during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, members of Child Protective Services joined three area playgroups, where they read and handed out copies of *The Runaway Bunny*, a tale of a mother's reassuring steadfast love by the author of *Goodnight Moon*, Margaret Brown.

Playgroups provide opportunities for children and parents to engage in fun activities together while building connections with other families and learning about child development and nurturing parenting techniques.

CPS staff also discussed resiliency and handed out parenting-tip diaper bag tags and bookmarks.

Learn more about [playgroups in Alexandria](#) and year-round [training opportunities for child abuse prevention](#). ~Doug Brown

STAFF CELEBRATED

On April 20, staff celebrated Administrative Professionals Day in recognition of the important contributions that administrative professionals make to the success of DCHS.

The day-long event afforded participants the opportunity to participate in workshops of their choosing with topics including Coping with Change, Caring



for Older Family Members, Work Life Balance, Feng Shui, Budgeting, Preventing Identity Theft and Beating the Blues.

Staff had lunch, and later in the day, senior managers manned an ice cream line to prepare sundaes for the admin professionals. Gifts and gift cards from managers were given to all admin staff, as well as handy DCHS tote bags and notebooks. Thank you to all of the DCHS administrative professionals!



TAKING KIDS TO WORK

The [Commission for Women](#), DCHS and the City Manager's Office sponsored the 25th Annual Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day on April 26.

More than 100 students from T.C. Williams High School and the Minnie Howard Campus were introduced to various career fields.

Among the 40 mentors were Alexan-

dria Mayor Allison Silberberg; Virginia State Senators George Barker and Dick Salslaw; Sheriff Dana Lawhorne; Alexandria Deputy City Manager Debra Collins; Alexandria Chief Information Officer Vanetta Pledger; World Bank Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Brett Libresco; and Visit Alexandria Chief Operating Officer Thomas Kaiden.

This year's event theme was "Service Force: Agents of Positive Change," highlighting the importance of being the positive change for those around you. In addition to workplace experiences, the mentees enjoyed a kick-off breakfast featuring the guest speakers Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks and Commission for Women Chair Kendra Martello.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is nationally sponsored by the Ms. Foundation.



DRUG TAKE BACK DAY IS A SUCCESS

On April 28, Alexandrians cleaned out their medicine cabinets and safely disposed of unused and expired medications at four drop off locations throughout the City.

Alexandria law enforcement collected over 434 pounds of medication at the Neighborhood Pharmacy in Del Ray, the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Fire Station 210 and the First Baptist Church. Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) volunteers

were onsite at each location handing out at-home disposal kits for residents to safely dispose of medication in between take back events.

Jim Carroll, Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy visited the Fire Station and spoke to Allen Lomax, SAPCA Chair, and Officer Aaron Taliaferro about the importance of the take back days and Alexandria's work in combatting the opioid epidemic. The next Take Back Day is July 28. ~by Noraine Buttar

EXCELLENCE IN AGING AWARDS PRESENTED

On May 8 in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall, the Alexandria Commission on Aging highlighted individuals and organizations dedicated to improving the lives of older Alexandrians at the 2018 Excellence in Aging Awards.

Four individuals/organizations were recognized:

Mary Hamil Parker, Ph.D., received the Annie B. Rose Award, which recognizes an individual whose exemplary achievements span a lifetime of public service.

Dolores Vieham received the Lois Van Valkenburgh Excellence in Aging Award, which recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to elevating the quality of life for older adults in Alexandria within the past year.

The Hermitage Northern Virginia received the Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization, which recognizes an organization that has made outstanding contributions to elevating the quality of life of older Alexandrians.

Margaret Orlando received the Public Service Award, which recognizes a City of Alexandria employee who has advanced, improved or otherwise contributed to making Alexandria a more livable community for all ages during the course of their job.



TEENS ENJOY TITAN TAKEOVER POOL PARTY

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria and the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy partnered to host the first ever Titan Takeover Pool Party on May 11 at the Chinguapin Recreation Center.

Over 65 youth participants enjoyed inflatable pool games, food from Chick-Fil-A, a photo booth, DJ, candy station and walked away with prevention information.

Titan Takeover events are hosted quarterly at recreation centers throughout the city and are free for all teenagers residing in Alexandria. ~by Lisette Torres



CCF PARTICIPATES IN SPRING2ACTION

Center for Children and Family staff Steve Frutos, Chelsea Eickert, Patricio Penaherrera and Director Stacey Harding-Chandler participated as Team DCHS-CCF in the Spring for Alexandria volunteer event on May 11.

The team packed and distributed food

for over 100 Alexandria individuals and families. The activity also allowed the team to connect with each other and meet new acquaintances in the community. ~from the CCF Connection



STAFF LEARN ABOUT HOARDING

On May 15, the Office on Aging and Adult Services hosted *Understanding Hoarding: Communication Strategies and Practical Approaches* by Matt Paxton from the TV show "Hoarders." Over 150 local professionals and community members attended.

Many of the topics presented are in his book, *The Secret Lives of Hoarders: True Stories of Tackling Extreme Clutter* showing a behind-the-scenes look at the mental health disorder that leads to hoarding. After working with hundreds of clients, Mr. Paxton has been able to help others recognize and respond to the disease.

Hoarding is an underdiagnosed mental illness. Roughly 1 in 20 people are hoarding to some degree. Without proper intervention and therapy, this behavior can lead to health and safety concerns for the person hoarding and others.

To report a hoarding concern, contact the local Code Enforcement agency. The City of Alexandria has an interagency team, the Hoarding Task Force (hoardingtaskforce@alexandriava.gov), that coordinates to resolve hoarding cases in the city. ~by Lucy Park



ACAP PARTICIPATES IN TWC OPEN HOUSE

On June 7, Alexandria's Teen Wellness Center (TWC) hosted an Open House for school officials, community leaders and City of Alexandria partners.

During the event, [ACAP's Peer Educators](#) gave tours of the center and discussed services offered, including mental health counseling, pregnancy testing and prevention and health education information.

Alexandria Health Department Director Stephen A. Haering provided attendees with a history of the center and its accomplishments and honored Marilyn Foster for her role as a Family Nurse Practitioner with the Teen Wellness Center since 2011.

~by Lisette Torres

MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE WORKSHOP

On May 16, DCHS joined with the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center to host *Resilience: What Employers Need to Know about Mental Health in the Workplace*.

Representatives from 20 local employers attended to learn more about how to promote a healthy workplace including Motley Fool, Campagne Center, Casa Chirilagua, several small businesses and City of Alexandria neighbor —Arlington County.

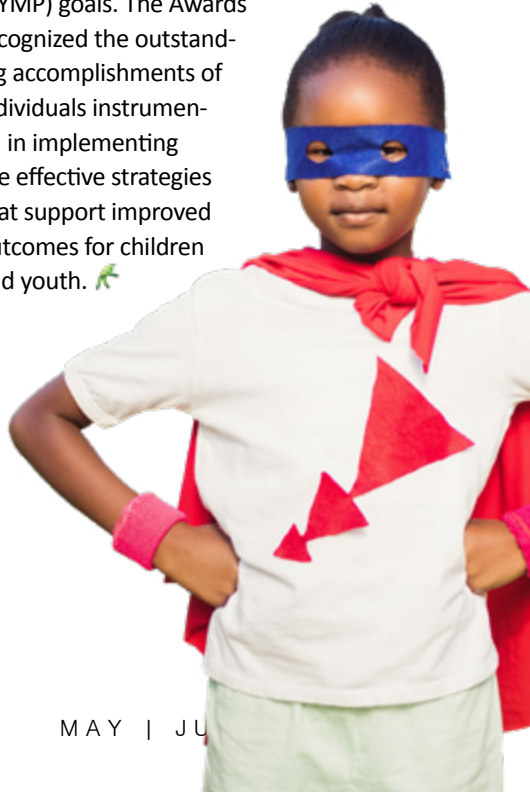
CSB Executive Director Carol Layer moderated a discussion by a panel of experts from DCHS, the American Psychiatric Association, the Inova Employee Assistance Program and local business owner Rob Krupicka.

Feedback was positive with employers indicating that as a result of the presentations they would help fight stigma, promote use of their Employee Assistance Program, share what they learned with their staffs, reach out to employees showing mental health symptoms and pursue ways to learn more, such as through a [Mental Health First Aid](#) training.

CELEBRATING UNSUNG HEROES

Individuals who have worked to improve the lives of children, youth and families in Alexandria were honored at the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission's (CYFCC) Champions of Children Awards reception on June 13 at the Vola Lawson Lobby in City Hall.

The awards celebrated Alexandria's unsung heroes whose tireless efforts advance the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) goals. The Awards recognized the outstanding accomplishments of individuals instrumental in implementing the effective strategies that support improved outcomes for children and youth. 🌱



Hello & Goodbye



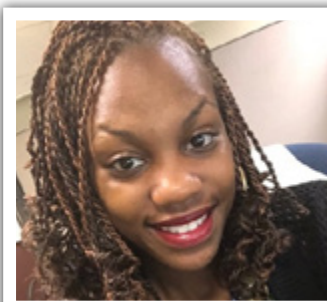
NEW STAFF

MELANEY COX

Melaney Cox joined DCHS as a part-time Senior Therapist in Emergency Services. Cox, originally from Silver Spring, Maryland, recently relocated from the Hampton Roads area. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Hampton University and her MSW from Norfolk State University. She has worked in intensive in-home and outpatient therapy settings as a clinician and manager, also serving as an intake coordinator. She worked for the Hampton Newport News CSB in Emergency Services for two years. She is newly licensed as of January and currently works in long term care, full time. She is excited and happy to join the team and return to Emergency Services.

ALBA DANIELS

Alba Daniels joined DCHS as an Administrative Support III with the Parent Infant Education Program.



DAJUANA DIGGINS-MCMURRAY

Dajuana Diggins-McMurray joined DCHS as an Administrative Support II with the Benefits program. She was a part of Parks & Recreations for two years before joining the DCHS family. She received her bachelor's in administration with a concentration in management from Bowie State University. She has worked with children and their families for 10 years. She resides with her husband and two children, who enjoy each other's company and having fun in the sun. She is grateful, eager and ready to learn all the opportunities DCHS has to offer. If you see her, say "hello"—she is known for her bright smile and happiness!

SHANNON EDWARDS

Shannon Edwards joined DCHS as a Human Services Benefits Program Specialist with the Center for Economic Support.



CAITLIN MACKAY

Caitlin Mackay joined DCHS as a Human Service Benefit Programs Supervisor for the SNAP and Medicaid programs. She came from the Fredericksburg Department of Social Services, where she was an Eligibility Worker for three years and a Benefit Programs Supervisor for five years. She has relocated to Alexandria and is excited to be living and working in this wonderful city.

MARLENE MARQUEZ

Marlene Marquez joined DCHS as a Case Worker with the Office of Community Services.

CRYSTAL MAYANJA

Crystal Mayanja joined DCHS as a Contracts and Grants Specialist with the Center for Operations. She has extensive experience in the area of business development and communications, from winning and managing large contracts and grants for the City of New



CHRISTINA PITRE

Christina (Muller Gonzales) Pitre joined DCHS as Supervisory Program Analyst with the Community Wraparound Team. She moved to Virginia from Dallas, Texas, where she spent much of her career working in community and local government mental health care systems implementing change management processes within mental health programs. She has a master's degree in public affairs, and a bachelor's degree in psychology. She enjoys spending time with her husband, traveling—especially to Vegas—and eating. She is very excited to be a part of a group that serves the most vulnerable kids in the community.

EDRIAN PINDER

Edrian Pinder joined DCHS as a Human Services Benefits Program Specialist at the Workforce Development Center. Raised on the Eastern

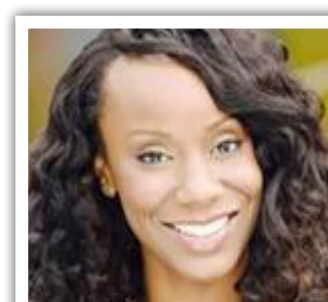
Shore of Maryland, he left home for the Central Virginia/Richmond area, where he attended Virginia State University and Virginia Commonwealth University and also worked in the medical field. He has a degree in psychology and extensive experience with adolescents. Prior to joining the DCHS team, he worked for the Maryland Department of Human Services assisting with benefits as a Family Investment Specialist and a Program Reviewer. In his new position with DCHS, he likes the positive team environment, leadership, genuine caring, development and progressive mentality of the organization. He has a passion for helping others and assisting with the betterment of the community in any way he can. In Alexandria, he is enjoying becoming accustomed to the city, its events and the opportunities for exploration that it provides.

MARGARET SERBEH

Margaret Serbeh joined DCHS as a Therapeutic Rec Leader at the Adult Day Services Center.

CHRISHONNA SHELTON

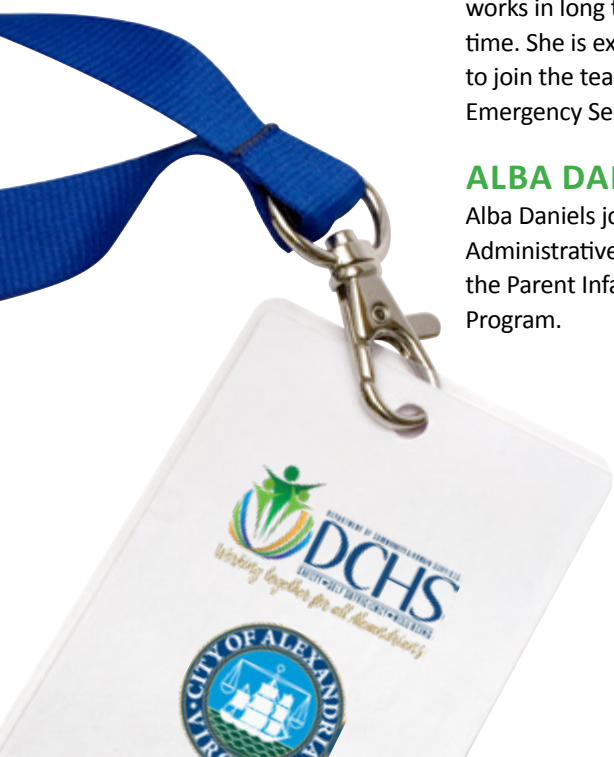
Chrishonna Shelton joined DCHS as the Program Manager for the PIE Program. She is a



Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked with children and families for over 13 years. As a result of her work experience and understanding of human behavior, she has been invited to appear on television to discuss various topics including child development, trauma, abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy prevention and fatherhood. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Social Work from Norfolk State University. She views her new position as an exciting opportunity to positively impact the lives of children and families within the Alexandria community.

JOB CHANGE

Darlene Cannaday is now a Family Services Specialist II with Adult Protective Services. **Kelsey Stodtko** is a Therapist with the Comprehensive Recovery Team.





News You Can Use

NOMINATE A YOUTH

[Applications](#) and [nominations](#) for the 2018 Alexandria Youth Leadership Conference are now being accepted. The event, which takes place August 13-15, is a great free opportunity for incoming 9th – 12th graders residing in Alexandria who demonstrate strong leadership skills, show potential to be great leaders or who are passionate about making a difference in the community. Applications and nominations are due by Monday, August 6. For more information, email Lisette-Tores@alexandriava.gov.

ATTEND A LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Every month, generally on the first Tuesday, the DCHS Leadership Team meeting is open to all staff. The Leadership Team is made up of the director of the department, the director for each of the four centers, the director of Tech Services, the chief fiscal officer and the Human Resources manager. You have the option to attend and participate in Open Leadership Team Meetings in person or via Skype. Emails are sent out to all employees prior to each meeting with an agenda, the location and instructions on how to attend via Skype.

BE READY FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season began June 1 and runs through November 30. Hurricanes are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena, and the City of Alexandria website has [helpful information for you to be prepared for a potential land-falling storm or hurricane](#).

Now is also a good time to make sure you are informed regarding the City's inclement weather policies.

City policy is that offices will be open for business during storms. Generally, when getting into work is difficult due to inclement weather, the City alerts employees that a **liberal leave policy** is in effect. Department heads, after ensuring that offices are adequately staffed, are able to approve requests for annual leave, compensatory leave or leave without pay if employees are unable to come to work. Under a liberal leave situation, employees must contact their departments immediately after opening to request liberal leave.

Please note that when liberal leave is declared, emergency employees (those in jobs that are vital to public health, safety and welfare) are expected to report for work on time. Check with your supervisor if you are unsure whether you are an emergency employee.

There are times, however, when the City will close some or all facilities, services or programs for specific periods of time due to inclement weather or emergency. Non-emergency employees are not to report to work, and full and part-time regular employees will be paid **emergency leave pay** for all regularly scheduled hours during the closure. All employees not scheduled to work or on approved leave are not eligible for emergency leave pay. Employees on an approved telecommuting agreement, and who were scheduled to work the day of the closure, must work or take leave and are not eligible for emergency leave pay, either.

During closures, regular full

and part-time emergency employees must report to work and will receive emergency leave pay for all time worked during the period of closure; temporary and seasonal emergency employees must report to work and are compensated for all hours actually worked.

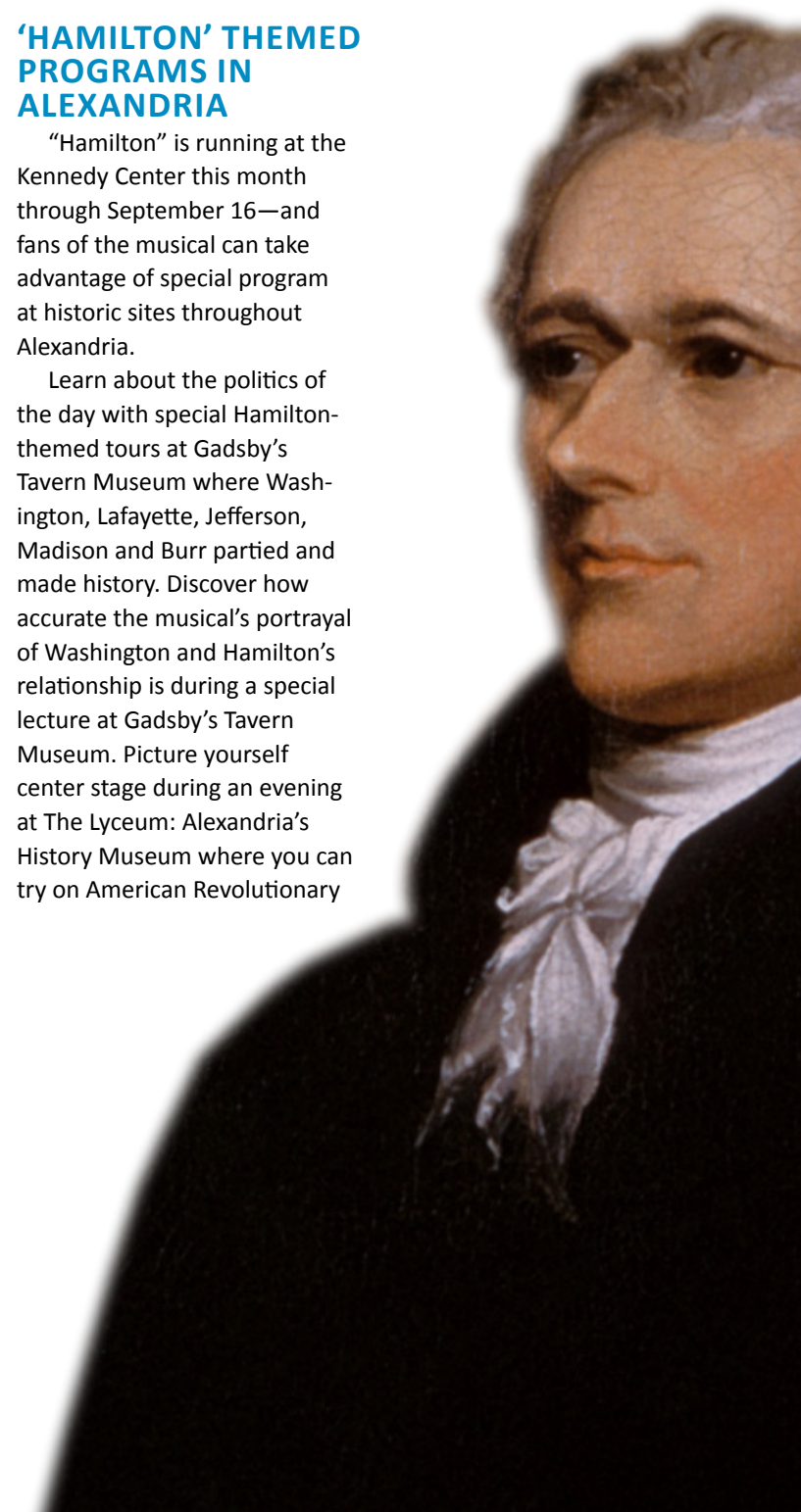
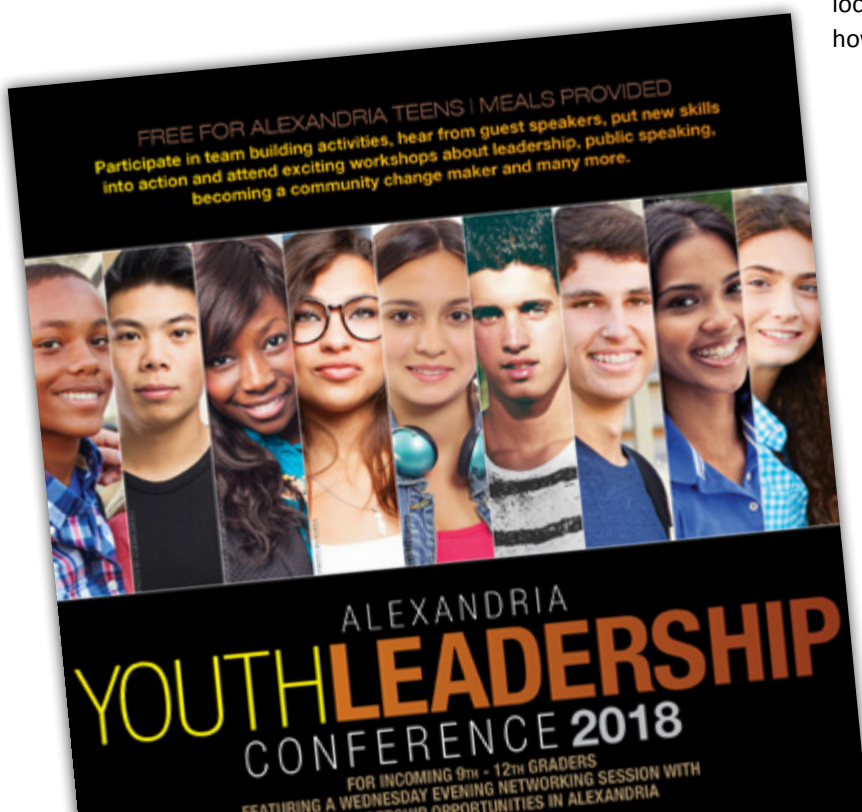
The City will advise local television and radio stations when operating on a liberal leave basis or closure. In addition, you can call the City's 24-hour Emergency Hotline at **703.746.INFO (4636)**. You may also subscribe to eNews to receive email and text announcements (member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832027#/login) or check the City's web site (www.alexandriava.gov) to see announcements on the City's status. In the rare occurrence of a status conflict between a TV or radio announcement and the City's announcement will prevail.

You can review the policies concerning liberal leave and emergency leave pay in the [Administrative Regulations](#).

'HAMILTON' THEMED PROGRAMS IN ALEXANDRIA

"Hamilton" is running at the Kennedy Center this month through September 16—and fans of the musical can take advantage of special program at historic sites throughout Alexandria.

Learn about the politics of the day with special Hamilton-themed tours at Gadsby's Tavern Museum where Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison and Burr partied and made history. Discover how accurate the musical's portrayal of Washington and Hamilton's relationship is during a special lecture at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Picture yourself center stage during an evening at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum where you can try on American Revolutionary



War uniforms like the ones seen in “Hamilton” and snap sharable photos. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon, put yourself in the General’s shoes through “[Be Washington: It’s Your Turn to Lead](#),” a new first-person interactive experience that has introductions to the various scenarios by Chris Jackson, the actor who played Washington in “Hamilton,” plus Alexander Hamilton is represented in the experience as an advisor. Alexandria also has another special connection to the Broadway hit “Hamilton” —

director Thomas Kail [grew up in Alexandria](#).

Learn more at blog.visitalexandriava.com/top-5-hamilton-experiences-alexandria-va

HOW TO GET TECH SUPPORT

If you need computer support, send an email to TECH-SUPPORT@alexandriava.gov.

Fill out the subject field with a short description of the issue; for example; *LDAP Password Reset; Unable to Access Kronos; Harmony Help Needed; Credible Help Needed, Request for Folder Access, Computer Blank*

Screen; etc.

In the body of the email message, provide a description of the issue. When applicable, provide a screen shot of the error message; this will help expedite the resolution of the issue. For password resets; please specify the application for which you are using the password (ie. *Spider, VaCMS, LearningPointe,*

Citrix, Email, IBM, etc.)

In situations where the issue is preventing you from sending an email (i.e. you are unable to access email, computer won’t power on, etc.) please call 703.746.6090 to request assistance. The tech will open a ticket for you to record your technical issue. 🐸



IMAGE BY QMTSTUDIO / FREEPIK



IMAGE BY FREEPIK.COM

What is Connect?

Connect seeks to inform DCHS employees about initiatives, programs, services and changes within the Department. It also introduces staff to one another on a more personal level, recognizes employee and team accomplishments, and helps foster relationship between programs and employees across DCHS.

Have a story to share?

We are always looking for news and story ideas. If you have an idea for content, email carmen.andres@alexandriava.gov or call 5753.

See a Significant Error?

To report significant errors in this newsletter, please email carmen.andres@alexandriava.gov.

Are you leaving the City?

Don’t miss out on important news and alerts! Sign up for the Behavioral Health and Human Services subscription group on eNews to continue receiving *Connect* content. The City of Alexandria’s free eNews service lets you sign up to receive information on nearly 100 topics, including vital emergency alerts. Go to www.alexandriava.gov/Communications for the link to sign up.

Want to know more about DCHS Programs?

Check out our Department webpages at www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS or read summaries of our Centers and programs with these summaries published in *Connect*: [Center for Adult Services](#), [Center for Children and Families](#), [Center for Economic Support](#) and [Center for Operations](#).